

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application. Claim 44 has been canceled by the present amendment and 42 and 43 were canceled by a previous amendment. Claims 1 and 36 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Foreign Priority

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) on The Netherlands Application No. 1018566, filed on July 17, 2001. In the Examiner's Office Action dated April 7, 2006, within the body of the Examiner's Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges this claim to priority and receipt of the certified copy of The Netherlands application. However, the Examiner has not provided this indication on the PTOL-326 Form. In view of this, it is requested that the Examiner acknowledge the priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 on the Notice of Allowability to ensure that the priority information is printed on the Official Letters Patent.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 23, 2005. In the Examiner's Office Action dated April 7, 2006, the Examiner indicates that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 23, 2005 has been considered and that a copy of the initialed PTO/SB/08 Form was attached. However, a copy of the initialed PTO/SB/08 Form was not attached to the Examiner's Office Action. In view of this, it is requested that the Examiner forward a copy of the initialed form with the Notice of Allowance.

Election/Restriction

In the Examiner's Office Action dated November 6, 2006, the Examiner has required cancellation of claim 44 as being directed to a non-elected invention. As the Examiner will note, claim 44 has been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. In addition, the Examiner has rejoined the withdrawn claims, and has indicated that claims 1-41 are in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Paul C. Lewis, Registration No. 43,368 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Application No.: 10/758,926
Amendment dated December 6, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 6, 2006

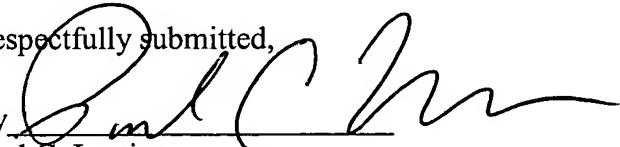
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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